



Barrington Police Department

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John M. LaCross
Chief of Police

PARENTS AND POLICE: A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The guidelines for conducting a consent to search pursuant to authorization by a parent or guardian shall be as follows:

1. A supervisor shall be requested at the scene when it is suspected that underage persons may be gathered for the purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages. Officers shall determine whether or not a parent or legal guardian is in the home. If none is present in the home, Officers shall request to speak with the person/host in charge of the home and/or gathering.
2. If probable cause exists to believe that underage persons, less than 21 years of age, have gathered to consume alcoholic beverages, a request shall be made to enter the home for the purpose of conducting an investigation. This request shall be made of the person in charge of the home.
3. If consent to enter is denied, headquarters shall be notified to verify a Parents Consent to Search Form has been authorized. The information supplied on the consent form must be verified for accurateness, i.e. signature, date, address, proper name, etc., and the period for which the authorization is granted.
4. The person in charge of the home will be notified that a properly signed consent to search has been authorized permitting Barrington Police Officers to conduct a limited search for alcoholic beverages. A request to enter and search shall be made.
5. Force of any kind shall not be used to enter a home for the sole purpose of searching a home for the presence of consumption of alcoholic beverages. Negotiation shall be the preferred response for gaining entry and attempts to notify family members shall be made to assist in gaining entry. If entry cannot be gained, the Officer-in-Charge may seek other options, i.e., posting of an officer at the scene, continuous monitoring by patrols, notification to family.
6. Only a visual search will be conducted of those areas likely to have been occupied by underage persons. Alcoholic beverages will be seized pursuant to department policy and the names and ages of those present shall be documented. Violations of law shall be handled accordingly with either an arrest or a complaint (report).
7. Officers are reminded that possession of alcohol by a minor is a civil infraction punishable by a monetary fine.